

From: ALadd70022@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:46pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear Sir:

As both a Microsoft stockholder and product consumer I find the on going legal proceedings against the company unsettling.

At first thought I see it as an attempt by the legal community to go after a "Cash Cow" gleaning as much of the companies financial resources as possible in the name of protecting the consumer. Cases brought against other companies in the past have garnered very little for the consumer but have fattened the wallets of legal community.

As an investor in Microsoft I have watched the value of my holdings plummet, at times, by more than fifty percent. This loss in wealth, due to the constant legal battles, has not settled very well with me as, I am sure, it has with others who have portions of their retirement savings tied to the companies fortune.

As a consumer of Microsoft products I don't really understand the problem. I have had both MSN and AOL. installed in our machines and have chosen to use AOL. I have Microsoft's Money program installed on our new machine from the manufacturer but have chosed to use another financial program without encountering any problems from the company. When we first bought a computer I chose to use another word processing program because I found it better than the Microsoft product that was installed from the factory. I don't see where Microsoft has caused me any damage as a consumer. All you have to do is use your head a little bit and decide what works best for you.

I have to comment on the business practices that the company has been accused of using over the years. Having been in the business community for over thirty years I can well understand why the company might have acted on the defensive in its dealings with other companies. It is a dog eat dog world and if you don't protect yourself then another company will cut your throat. Ethics in the business world are a facade used to get whatever you can for yourself and screw everyone else. So I don't see where the company acted any different than how any of its computitors would have under the circumstances. Just look at what AOL is doing to small web site providers and the Enron case.

In closing, I hope that there is a reasonable settlement to the case that allows the company to spend its resources developing product that will improve the productivity of the country and not on defending itself against a continuing parade of legal battles.

Sincerely,

Anthony V. Ladd